



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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GOVERNOR OFFICE BUILDING TAKES ENERGY FROM THE SUN

Jefferson City (October 18, 2002)---The Missouri Public Service Commission, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center, the Missouri Office of Administration, Bruce Cohn Realty, the owner of the Governor Office Building, and AmerenUE (Partners in Solar Energy Education) are proud to announce a joint effort that has resulted in the installation of a photovoltaic array on the roof of the Governor Office Building. This photovoltaic array converts sunlight into electricity. The PSC's offices are located in the Governor Office Building in downtown Jefferson City.

"We are excited about this project and hope that it inspires others to consider solar energy," stated PSC Commissioner Sheila Lumpe. "We hope others will come by and see this project and that it will be something they might consider using to help with their energy needs."

In bright sunlight, this array will produce approximately 2,100 watts of power (2,100 watts of power can also run: Twenty-one 100 watt light bulbs; One 1,500 watt hair dryer and six 100 watt light bulbs; or Five desktop computers with monitors). In one year, this photovoltaic system will produce approximately 3,750 kilowatt hours of electricity which is about one-third the average annual household electricity use in Missouri.

The photovoltaic array is connected to AmerenUE's grid through an inverter that converts the direct current output from the array to alternating current with the appropriate voltage, current and frequency. The inverter also provides the necessary automatic safety disconnects if AmerenUE's grid loses power to prevent line repairmen from being injured.

An informational panel in the lobby of the Governor Office Building explains how solar power works and includes a monitor that shows the amount of power the photovoltaic array is producing.

The Governor Office Building photovoltaic array will be the first stop on the Solar Buildings Tour this Saturday in Jefferson City. This event will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Runge Nature Center and will include a number of presentations related to solar and wind energy and how to get these systems connected to the grid. Tours of the photovoltaic array on the roof of the Governor Office Building will start at noon. The Solar Building Tour this year is being sponsored by the Capitol Area Project for Sustainability, the Missouri Public Service Commission, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center.